

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A homogeneous, amorphous cogel catalyst support comprising a modifying-metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide.

Claim 2 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 3, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 4, wherein the base-metal oxide is alumina and the modifying-metal-oxide is silica.

Claim 6 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.

Claim 7 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 90 wt% to about 99 wt% alumina.

Claim 8 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 5, which has been prepared by a cogel process.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina cogel catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk Si-Al ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio is from about 1.0.

Claim 13 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina cogel catalyst support exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having a broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the full line width is 50% greater than the line width of unmodified alumina when measured at half height.

Claim 16 (Original) A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the intensity is at least 25% lower than for the unmodified alumina.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A catalyst for the Fischer-Tropsch process comprising a homogeneous, amorphous cogel catalyst support comprising a modifying- metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.9 to about 1.1 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide and a catalytically active Group VIII metal.

Claim 18 (Original) A catalyst according to claim 17, further comprising at least one promoter.

Claim 19 (Original) A catalyst according to claim 17, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof, the base-metal-oxide is

selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A catalyst according to claim 19, wherein the catalytically active Group VIII metal is selected from the group consisting of cobalt, iron and mixture thereof.

Claims 21 – 25 (Cancelled)